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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF ABERGAVENNY

FOR THE

YEAR 1971.

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc.,M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Medical Officer of Health

and

Medical Officer of Health No. 10 Area.

ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To : The Chairman and Members
of
Abergavenny Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

1971.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vital statistics for 1971 show that the local adjusted birth rate of 16.4 live births per 1,000 population is the lowest for some 20 years although marginally higher than the country's considered low rate. Happily, I can report a satisfactory reduction in the still-birth, infant mortality, neo-natal and peri-natal mortality rates. We do experience much fluctuation in the latter from year to year as the rates are based on such small numbers.

Our local adjusted death rate continues to be appreciably lower than the prevailing rates for the County as well as England and Wales. At the same time more children in the Rural District can now expect to live on to a ripe old age. The proportionate and absolute numbers of old people in the area are higher than in many parts of Monmouthshire, but the estimated population remains relatively static. This is in spite of improved medicine and higher standards of living. We tend to have a steady emigration of youngsters from country to town in search of employment, entertainment, and ease of public transport. As this trend seems likely to continue the district's population will soon be heavily weighted by the middle-aged and elderly. This, in its turn, brings about its own special problems - closure of more village schools, increasing difficulty in the availability of home helps, fewer deliveries of

essential consumer goods to the housebound and the gradual disappearance of a whole way of life.

Persons over 65 years of age.
(1951 - 1961).

Local Authority.	1961 numbers.	1951 numbers.	Percentage change 1951-1961 in the population.
Abercarn U.D.	1951	1763	+ 10.7
Abergavenny M.B.	1276	1070	+ 19.3
Abertillery U.D.	2759	2817	- 2.1
Bedwas & Machen U.D.	980	814	+ 20.4
Bedwellty U.D.	2533	2345	+ 8.0
Blaenavon U.D.	1062	958	+ 10.9
Caerleon U.D.	591	505	+ 17.0
Chepstow U.D.	840	635	+ 32.3
Cwmbran U.D.	1594	1251	+ 27.4
Ebbw Vale U.D.	2946	2748	+ 7.2
Monmouth M.B.	823	720	+ 14.3
Mynyddislwyn U.D.	1420	1238	+ 14.7
Nantyglo & Blaina U.D.	1177	1239	- 5.0
Pontypool U.D.	4919	4315	+ 14.0
Rhymney U.D.	973	908	+ 7.2
Risca U.D.	1839	1595	- 15.3
Tredegar U.D.	2042	2045	- 0.1
Usk U.D.	199	183	+ 8.7
* Abergavenny R.D.	1332	1240	+ 7.4
Chepstow R.D.	1317	1062	+ 24.0
Magor & St. Mellons R.D.	1776	1545	+ 15.0
Monmouth R.D.	859	831	+ 3.4
Pontypool R.D.	965	685	+ 41.5
Cwmbran New Town	1778	1282	+ 38.7
County	36,173	32,509	+ 11.3

Even to-day, we have a group of considerable size characterised by old age, relative poverty, and isolation of its individual members from each other and from the rest of society. There is growing evidence that the outcome of such a situation is an inadequate diet and malnutrition in many cases. One form of malnutrition is scurvy which appears to occur more regularly among old people to-day. Anaemia is also commonly found whereas depression and mental confusion are often experienced. These and several other conditions could so easily be overcome with a little thought

to a reasonable and adequate daily diet.

At all ages, malnutrition was rare during World War II due to the controlled distribution of food, dietary education and the shortage of luxury foods. In many ways, health was said to be improved as evidenced by the nation's better tooth quality. After the war luxury foods again became available and increasingly flooded the market, while the supply of low cost protective foods has been reduced or ignored by too many people. At the same time tooth quality is said to have deteriorated. Of course, gross malnutrition and widespread poverty are unknown in this country to-day but there are those in poor circumstances, not necessarily financial. Many of these are poor managers needing guidance as to the relative values of essentials and luxuries. Certainly prices are rising but whereas the average proportion of the weekly budget used for smoking seems to have increased, that for food is said to have fallen especially for such items as butter and cheese. Too often the emphasis is placed on car ownership, television sets, and the so called good things of this affluent age, but in many of our more isolated spots such emphasis is unavoidable. Nevertheless, people themselves should see that their diets are well-balanced.

The hazards of smoking cannot be mentioned too often despite the pleasure it may give the unfortunate smoker. One must emphasiseagain that the mortality, in Britain to-day, from diseases associated with this habit or addiction is amongst the highest in the world. Indeed, it is considered as the largest single avoidable cause of death in this country now. It can be argued, particularly in an ageing population, that death must occur sometime from something but why do we need to precipitate the event especially when the terminal stages can be so incapacitating to the smoker.

Even in Abergavenny Rural District one suspects that the misuse of drugs generally is on the increase, particularly amongst the young. The rebellion of youth, in this and other directions, may be a state of mind produced by affluence. Man has learnt how to produce plenty but not yet how to control himself when surrounded by material and facilities greatly in excess of his needs.

Yours faithfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc.,M.B.,B.Ch.,D.P.H.,
M.F.C.M.

Medical Officer of Health.

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VITAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	62,685
Population	10,660
Number of Inhabited Houses (According to Rate Book 31/12/71)	3,374
Rateable Value	£230,656
1p Rate	£2,227

1971 :	M	F	Total
Live Births :			
Legitimate	78	61	139
Illegitimate	3	4	7
	81	65	146

Live Birth Rate :	Rural District	County	E. & W.
Per 1,000 population	13.7	16.1	16.0
Comparability Factor 1.2			
Adjusted Live Birth Rate 13.7 x 1.2 = 16.2		16.4	16.0

Still Births :	M	F	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate :	Rural District	County	E. & W.
Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	14	16.0	12.0

DEATHS	M	F	Total
All causes	88	86	174

	Rural District	County	E. & W.
Death Rate per 1,000 population	16.3	12.0	11.6
Comparability Factor 0.47			
Adjusted Death Rate 16.3 x 0.47 =	7.7	13.4	11.6

	M	F	Total
Death from Cancer (all forms)	8	11	19
Deaths from lung cancer	3	-	3
Deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			Nil

	Rural District	County
Maternal Death Rate (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)	0	0.18

	M	F	Total
Infant Mortality	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate (Rate per 1,000 total Live Births)	Rural District -	County 15.0	E. & W. 18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate-first 4 weeks	-	10.0	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Under 1 week)	-	8.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality (Still births and Infant deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live and still births	14.0	24.0	22.0

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny Rural District (1959-1971).

Year	Number of First Week Deaths	Number of Still Births	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1971	-	2	14.0
1970	-	6	39.0
1969	1	-	6
1968	-	1	7
1967	2	1	21.7
1966	3	4	48.95
1965	2	7	51.7
1964	2	2	28
1963	-	-	-
1962	4	1	42.55
1961	2	1	28.99
1960	1	7	56.7
1959	2	2	32.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY (1959-1971).

Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and Monmouthshire County

Year	Abergavenny Borough	Abergavenny Rural District	Monmouthshire
1971	36.0	14.0	24.0
1970	25.0	39.0	27.90
1969	63.0	6	27.33
1968	53.6	7	28.99
1967	37.5	21.7	29.09
1966	12.1	48.95	33.87
1965	31.25	51.7	35.98
1964	57.8	28.6	37.25
1963	30.6	-	35.82
1962	71.4	42.55	38.85
1961	46.1	28.99	39.9
1960	51.3	56.7	42.0
1959	23.9	32.0	47.7

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1971.	ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT	
	S E X	
Cause	Male	Female
Late effects Respiratory T.B.	1	-
Syphilis and its Sequelae	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Oesophagus	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	3	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	1
Leukaemia	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	5
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-
Avitaminoses etc.	1	-
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	1
Anaemias	1	-
Mental Disorders	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Diseases	2	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	20	26
Other forms of Heart Disease	8	9
Cerebro-Vascular Disease	15	12
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	4
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	11	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	3
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	2	-
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous tissue	1	-
Symptoms and ill-defined Conditions	1	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
All other Accidents	1	2
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	88	88

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (1971).

(Classified according to sex and age)

Disease	Sex	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 plus	Total
Whooping Cough	M	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	F	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	M	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	M	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentry	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abortus Fever	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

UBERCULOSIS

Notified	Pulmonary	M 1	F 0	Non Pulmonary	M 0	F 0
Deaths	Pulmonary	M 0	F 0	Non Pulmonary	M 1	F 0

Yours respectfully,

S.M.JAMES, B.Sc.,M.B.,B.Ch.,D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Medical Officer of Health.

ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Public Health Inspector.

To : The Chairman & Members of the Abergavenny R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to submit my report on the work carried out by this department during the year ending 31st December, 1971.

The various activities of the department can be conveniently grouped under the headings Housing ; Refuse, Trade Waste, and Litter Collection and Disposal ; Sewerage and Sewage Disposal ; and General Public Health Matters. An important factor in the efficient administration of a department with such a wide variety of functions,and a very limited number of staff,is the control of priorities so that alround progress can be made in the face of the enumerable contingencies that, quite naturally, arise in the operation of public services. Despite the fact that several aspects of the work planned for the year were disrupted by the demands of contingencies, I can report that the overall situation is satisfactory.

The position with regard to housing in particular is very pleasing. The combination of efforts towards dealing with unfit houses by means of formal action and the improvement grant campaign resulted in such a surge of progress that the ground lost in previous years, in terms of completing the programme by 1974, was made up. If this rate of progress is maintained it should result in the successful conclusion of quite an ambitious programme.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their confidence and support and also the Clerk and other colleagues for their valuable help and assistance.

I am,

Yours Respectfully,

T. GREGORY.

Public Health Inspector.

I N D E X

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11. Agricultural Workers (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) act, 1956.

11. Animal Boarding Establishments, 1963.

11. Caravan Sites.

11. Civic Amenities Act, 1967.

12. Factories Act, 1961.

14. Food & Drugs Act, 1955 :-

14. Unsound Food.

14. Food Hygiene.

15. Poultry Inspection.

15. Ice Crean (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

15. Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations.

16. Housing :-

16. Unfit Premises.

18. Improvement Grants.

18. Qualification Certificates.

19. Office, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

19. Public Health Act, 1936.

19. Nuisances.

19. Rodent Control and Disinfestation.

20. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

22. Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

25. Slaughter Houses.

25. Water Supplies.

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AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

No special action was taken in connection with this Act this year but where farms were visited for other reasons the sanitary accommodation was inspected and approved. No formal action was found necessary.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

A Licence, containing conditions, was issued in respect of one premises and this was found generally to be satisfactory. 20 dogs are catered for at this establishment. The other premises previously licensed have closed due to the owners leaving the district.

CARAVAN SITES.

Residential Sites.

21 Site Licences were issued in conjunction with temporary planning consents in respect of residential sites containing one caravan. Most of these temporary consents have been renewed yearly for quite a few years and moves have been made in the past to have these planning consents made permanent or withdrawn, but little improvement seems to have been made in this direction.

Four sites hold a permanent licence for one caravan only, and a further site holds a permanent licence for four caravans. It is expected that this last site will not operate in the coming year.

Holiday Sites.

Four sites are permanently licensed for six months of the year for holiday caravans, the sites containing 4, 7, 8 and 25 caravans respectively. It is expected that the site containing 8 vans, in conjunction with the residential site mentioned above, will not operate in the coming year.

Conditions generally on the sites are good although complaints are received from time to time from both residents and the general public and these are generally dealt with by reference to the licence conditions.

Caravan Club Sites.

There are a small number of small Caravan Club sites in the district but these operate without the need for a licence. A site catering for up to 70 vans is expected to open in the coming year.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967.

Abandoned Motor Vehicles.

30 abandoned motor vehicles were cleared from sites this year. A great deal of this problem continues to arise from cars which have been stripped down for spares before being abandoned. None of these cases were dealt with by formal action.

Bulky Domestic Refuse & Abandoned Rubbish.

Despite this Council's well advertised free service for the collection and disposal of accumulations of rubbish and bulky items, dumping of this stuff in the countryside still continues.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

A total of 17 premises were registered as factories during the year, plus 5 building sites and works of engineering construction which ranked as factories. In all cases these were factories in which only Section 7 of the Act (the provision of sanitary conveniences) is enforced by the Local Authority.

Action Taken.

No written notices were served in respect of defective or insufficient sanitary conveniences.

Outworkers.

3 Persons were notified as outworkers, these being engaged in knitted woollens and dressmaking.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 196[illegible]

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	17	3	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	9	5	Nil	Nil
Total :	26	8	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found :-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	6	6	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
)Making, earing)etc.	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pparel)Cleaning	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
)and)Washing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Unsound Food

No unfit food was condemned during the year. A small quantity of unsound food (tinned meat and tinned fruit) was voluntarily surrendered.

Food Hygiene.

Visits of Inspection :

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits	No. of warnings verbal and written	No. of Infringements
Grocers	22	13	6	15
Other Food Premises	3	1	1	2
Ice-Cream Premises	27	13	-	-
Cafes	2	6	2	7
Street Vendors	10	4	4	13
Licensed Clubs	3	1	-	-
Licensed Premises	31	22	7	20
	98	60	20	57

Food Hygiene

Visits of Inspection (Continued) :

	Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (Wash-hand basins, etc.)	Premises to which Reg.19 applies (Sinks, etc.)	Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19 (Sinks, etc.)
Grocers	22	22	22
Ice-Cream Premises	27	-	-
Cafes	2	2	2
Licensed Clubs	3	3	3
Licensed Premises	26	31	31
Other Food Premises	3	3	3

In addition to the above visits 13 food stalls were inspected at th Abergavenny & Border Counties Show. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

As street traders do not have to be licensed or registered it is an extremely difficult task to keep track of all those that do from time to time operate within the district and one can only rely upon meeting them in one's travels. Most of these traders are not resident within the district. The standard of these vehicles is never a very good one and the usual result of a warning is not for the standard to be raised but for the trader to avoid trading in the district for a while.

Poultry Inspection. There are two small poultry processing premises within the district. Hygiene, poultry inspection, and waste disposal is well controlled.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 and 1952.

Only one premises is registered for the manufacture of ice-cream. The remaining 26 registered premises sell pre-packed ice-cream. Four street traders are known to operate within the district. Two of these sell loose ice-cream, which is manufactured outside the district, and two sell soft ice-cream frozen on the vehicle. No samples were submitted for bacteriological or chemical analysis.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

There are 12 producer/distributors in the area and these dairies are controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. A further 5 retailers are licensed by the County Council.

No milk samples were submitted for bacteriological or chemical analysis during the year by this Authority but action was taken to control the sale of milk from one farm, after notification of a case of Brucella Abortus by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

HOUSING

I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1)	(a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	...	204
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	314
(2)		Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	83

II. Action under the Statutory Powers

Proceedings taken under Sections 9 to 16, Housing Act, 1957

(a)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(b)	Number of unfit houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	41
(c)	Number of Closing Orders made	...	1
(d)	Number of Demolition Orders made	...	1
(e)	Number of unfit houses demolished	...	Nil
(f)	Number of unfit houses on which undertakings were accepted	...	81
(g)	Number of unfit houses subject to change of use	...	Nil
(h)	Number of unfit houses made fit as a result of formal action	...	7

I have reported over the last two years on progress made with regard to solving the problem of unfit and substandard housing. The action commenced with a survey covering upwards of 1,000 selected houses which revealed the bulk of the unfit and substandard houses. The next step was a three stage publicity drive aimed at obtaining owner co-operation in voluntary improvement. During this period no formal Housing Act action was initiated. The response to this encouragement in connection with the worst of the unfit houses was very poor although in other directions the response was quite good, and it was considered necessary to initiate formal action in appropriate cases with the object of securing their upgrading and not simply Demolition or Closing Orders. This was the course of action for this year and, whilst it was only necessary to impose one order, a Closing Order, the results of this year's activities cannot, at this stage, be seen to any great extent as the time factors involved in carrying out negotiations and the physical work of improvement will, in most cases, carry the conclusion dates into 1972 or even 1973.

The whole of this exercise, from the survey onwards, has been conducted with care for the welfare of those persons, in most cases owner occupiers, who by dint of old age, sickness, infirmity, or other extenuating circumstances demand special consideration. The nature of the unfit house in the rural district is generally such that a full and proper improvement scheme would seriously disrupt every room in the house. As a result of the consideration given to every such case a special list of unfit properties has been prepared on which formal action will be avoided pending a change in the special circumstances appertaining at the time of inclusion on the list. In this way zealous housing administration is properly tempered by a most considerate attitude towards the special circumstances of the rural district.

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Improvement Grants

(1) Standard Grants :

(a) Number of applications received during the year	...	4
(b) Number of applications approved during the year	...	4
(c) Number of applications withdrawn during the year	...	Nil
(d) Expenditure ranking for grants approved during the year	...	£1,604.00
(e) Number of cases in which work was completed		5
(f) Expenditure paid out on work completed during the year	...	£1,157.00

(2) Discretionary Grants :

(a) Number of applications received during the year	...	54
(b) Number of applications approved during the year	...	53
(c) Number of applications withdrawn during the year	...	Nil
(d) Expenditure ranking for grants approved during the year		£67,261.00
(e) Number of cases where work was completed during the year		28
(f) Expenditure paid out on work completed during the year		£18,119.00

At the commencement of this Council's Improvement Grant campaign in October, 1969, a minimum of 50 grants per year was considered to be necessary to claim success. The number over the last two years totals 106 and the outlook for the future is even more promising. 34 of the 53 Discretionary Grants approved this year concerned unfit houses, the owners of which having finally responded to the call for voluntary action. The knowledge that formal Housing Act action in respect of this kind of property was again being taken by this Council, may have some bearing upon this.

The extent of the resources of the building industry in the area continues as always to be a prime matter for concern. It remains to be seen whether the backlog of improvements so far sanctioned can be completed expeditiously and the pending work load coped with also. It may be that the sticking point has been reached and, whilst an increasing number of improvement schemes should be forthcoming, owners will find the task of obtaining a builder becoming more and more difficult. This and a whole lot of other factors have to be considered by a Council pursuing an active Improvement Grant policy in order that every possible assistance is given to applicants and that as many obstacles to success can be identified and removed. A spin off problem from the shortage of builders is that of the standard of work, which must not be allowed to deteriorate, but which may well tend to due to the various pressures involved and difficulty in recruiting sufficient trained and experienced labour.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES.

Four applications were received during the year. Three Qualification Certificates and one refusal were issued.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Class of Premises	Number of Premises		
	Registered during Year	Total Registered at end of year	Receiving a general Inspection during the year
Offices	-	2	0
Retail Shops	-	5	3
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the Public and Canteens	-	10	8
Totals :	-	17	11

Total Number of Visits to Registered Premises : 11

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Most of the activities of this department covered by the Public Health Act, 1936, have sufficient content to be dealt with in detail under their separate headings.

Nuisances.

Very few complaints were received during the year involving Statutory Nuisances, and these were settled without resorting to formal action.

RODENT CONTROL AND OTHER DISINFESTATION

This work, in respect of Council property and dwelling houses, is carried out by a Private Contractor under contract but, as usual, in order to give a more complete picture of rodent control work in the district, I have included the contractor's work in connection with business and agricultural premises.

There was no evidence this year of any warfarin resistant rats.

Rat activity in sewers remains at a very low level and conditions generally give no cause for concern.

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
		NON-AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1. a. *	Total Number of properties in district	3,732	
b.	Agricultural properties		538
2. a.	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	537	46
b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	374	72
	(ii) Mice	30	12
3. a.	Total number of properties inspected for rats and /or mice for reasons other than notification	127	67
b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	168	58
	(ii) Mice	12	9
4.	Total No. of Treatments carried out including re-treatments	590	162

* This figure includes all agricultural properties.

The houses in the district remain substantially free from insect infestation although the contractor is called upon to deal with a considerable number of complaints concerning cluster flies, wasps, bees and bats. A surprising development is the number of complaints concerning bats in new houses. This is usually a difficult problem to deal with.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Most of the rural district is covered by the Council's collection scheme, which is under the control of the Public Health Inspector.

The collection, which is a kerbside one, is carried out weekly in most parts of the district with just three difficult or isolated small areas being served fortnightly.

The Council undertake to collect from householders, free of charge, all accumulations of refuse and bulky items such as furniture and kitchen equipment. Although separate records of this activity have not been kept it can be said that there was a considerable call on this service during the year with a consequent reduction in the number of cases of dumping.

All domestice refuse is now disposed of by pulverisation at the new plant which came into operation in June of this year. This plant, which is a joint venture by the Abergavenny Borough Council, Crickhowell Rural District Council, and this Council is the first of its kind in South Wales and represents a notable achievement in terms of co-operation between Councils and for progressive policies. There were, surprisingly, few teething troubles and the machinery has operated smoothly from the first starting. Bulky and other items which cannot be pulverised are disposed of by burying on the tip. With the increase in the number of such articles this could become a serious problem as far as tip control is concerned.

Litter Collection and Street Cleaning.

The clearing of trunk road layby litter bins is carried out by this Council as agents for the Monmouthshire County Council. Similar arrangements for the sweeping of laybys were negotiated this year. These two tasks are now carried out together and a considerable improvement on the laybys has been effected. A pilot scheme of road sweeping was commenced in one village last year which proved to be a success and the scheme has now been extended to cover all the major villages. This is a relatively low cost venture which is proving to be most effective and which is greatly appreciated by the local communities.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the populated parts of the districts are sewered, 1,855 houses being connected to a main sewer. The remaining properties in the area being farms and isolated cottages and hamlets, are served by septic tanks, earth and chemical closets. It is estimated that there are upwards of 800 septic tanks in the area, including 400 receiving farm drainage. These figures are not likely to be substantially reduced in the future and represent, in the main, a residual of properties which it is not possible to put on main drainage. Future action in this direction continues to be in the nature of protecting streams from pollution and improving the size, construction and means of drainage of the older types of tanks. Complaints concerning nuisances caused by septic tanks are few but there continues to be a large number of requests from owners for information and advice. This Council now operates a septic tank emptying service at a small charge. The response to these requests together with the work in this connection involved in house improvement and improvement grants is resulting in a speedy upgrading of septic tank drainage systems generally.

Three men are employed full-time on the maintenance of the sewage works under the supervision of the general foreman.

In the cases of the villages of Grosmont, Pandy, Llanddewi Rhydderch, Llanover, Llanarth, Llanellen, Bryn, Llanvair Kilgeddin, Great Oak, and Mardy, the means of disposal is through traditional sewage disposal works. On small Council housing sites septic tanks and tipper filters are used.

The sewerage system at the village of Govilon is connected to the sewage works owned by and situated within the area of the Crickhowell Rural District Council and that at Llanfoist village is connected to the Abergavenny Borough sewage works.

At the Mardy, Pandy, Grosmont, Llanover, and Great Oak works the sewage sludge is semi-dried on special beds and then dug out and removed from the site for final disposal. At the remaining works sludge removal and disposal is by means of a liquid sludge tanker vehicle. Final disposal is effected by either spraying the liquid on grassland or by digestion at the Pandy works.

With the exception of the Great Oak works the treated sewage is disposed of by discharge into water courses and the quality of such effluents is controlled by the appropriate River Authority. The quality of the effluents from the Mardy, Llanvair Kilgeddin, Bryn, Llanarth, Llanover, and Llanellen works is poor and gives cause for considerable concern. The Llanellen works is a newly constructed one and the working of the filter beds is still being investigated in co-operation with this Council's engineering consultants.

At the Bryn village disposal works a simple systen of recirculation using two small submersible pumps has been installed. A similarsysten has also been installed at the Llanvair Kilgeddin disposal works. These systems are the result of successful experiments carried out over previous years in co-operation with the Usk River Authority

At the close of the year this Council's engineering consultants were still preparing the details of the schemes for the "Northern area",(which includes the villages of Brynygwenin, Llanvapley, and Llanddewi Rhydderch) and Mardy.

The scheme at Mardy involves the construction of a replacement sewerage systen and a means for proper sewage disposal. The present disposal works at Mardy is over 30 years old and considerably overloaded. The renewal of this works, whilst a possibility, would not be a good economic or engineering proposition. An alternative would be to dispose of the sewage via the main Abergavenny Borough Council works but a Council suggestion to this effect has resulted in the appearance of a number of difficulties. Negotiations and discussions are proceeding to establish the best practicable means of disposing of this sewage.

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DETAILS OF HOUSES CONNECTED TO A MAIN SEWER

PARISH	WARD	No. of houses.	No. of houses connected to a main sewer.	REMARKS
rgavenny ral		71	9	
nddewi Skirrid		35		
corney Fawr	Llanvihangel Crucorney	218	91	
	Oldcastle	9		
	Bwlch Trewyn	24		
	Lower Cwmyoy	46	8	
	Upper Cwmyoy	34		
	Fwthog	12		
ntilio	Fforest	47		
tholey	Mardy, Croesonnen, Llwynu	831	831	Schemes being prepared for Mardy, Brynygwenin, Llanvapley, Llanddewi.
	(Remainder)	249		
narth Fawr	Llanarth	67	24	
	Clytha	64		
	Bryngwyn	79	23	
	Llanvapley	44	8	
	Bettws Newydd	25		
nover Fawr	Llanover	124	80	
	Llanvihangel-nigh-Usk	39		
	Llangattock-nigh-Usk	116	51	Recirculation systems installed at Llangattock-nigh-Usk and Llanvair disposal works.
	Llansantffraed	2		
	Llanvair Kilgeddin	86	20	
	Llanddewi Rhydderch	99	24	
nfoist Fawr	Llanfoist	261	220	
	Llanellen	*138	89	
	Llanwenarth Citra	86	8	
	Llanwenarth Ultra	450	385	
	Pwlldu	2		
smont Fawr	Grosmont	*150	64	
	Llangua	23		
	Llangattock Lingoed	36		
	Llanvetherine	37	4	
		ϕ 3,504	1,939	

* Approximate figures.

ϕ This figure varies from the housing figure given on page 5 because of the inclusion of caravans etc.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the Rural District. One licensed slaughterman resides within the area.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The supply and distribution systems now administered by the Gwent Water Board remain basically as in previous years. The main sources of water being from springs at Grosmont, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Llanthony, Llwynu, and the Talybont and Grwyne Fawr reservoirs.

During the year, the following samples were taken for bacteriological examination :-

Source	Untreated Water		Treated Water	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsati factor
Main Piped Supplies	-	-	306	30
Private Wells & Springs	11	15	-	-

Most of the samples from the main piped supplies were taken by the Gwent Water Board who regularly supply details of all the samples taken. Most of the unsatisfactory samples of untreated mains water continue to relate to two very small spring supplies to approximately six houses at the Deri side and Pwlldu. The possibility of a treated mains supply to both areas is still under consideration with some slight progress being made.

The task of improving the private supplies to isolated houses continues mainly in conjunction with the house improvement campaign and this constitutes one of the least realised but most important aspects of house improvement in the rural district.

Parish	No. of Houses	Pop.	Ward	No. of Houses	Pop.	Water Supply by Public Water Mains: Direct to Houses		Stand Pipes	
						Houses	Pop.	Houses	Pop.
Abergavenny Rural	* 71	1,268		71	1,268	* 29	1,120		
Llanddewi Skirrid	35	100		35	100	13	36		
Crucorney Fawr	342	877	Llanvihangel	218	560	146	379		
			Bwlch Trewyn	24	63				
			Oldcastle	9	23				
			Lower Cwmyoy	46	117	14	35		
			Upper Cwmyoy	34	89				
			Fwthog	12	31				
Llantilio Pertholey	1,066	3,252	All wards except Fforest	1,080	3,254	1,072	3,284		
			Fforest	47	149	7	23		
Llanarth Fawr	277	835	Llanarth	67	198	53	155		
			Clytha	64	202	42	130		
			Bryngwyn	79	233	53	164		
			Llanvapley	44	132	34	101	1	2
			Bettws Newydd	25	76	20	61		
Llanover Fawr	462	1,299	Llanover	124	350	153	302		
			Llanvihangel-nigh-Usk	39	113	33	96		
			Llangattock-nigh-Usk	116	305	100	255		
			Llansantffraed	2	6	2	6		
			Llanvair Kilgeddin	86	249	72	206		
			Llanddewi Rhydderch	99	285	89	254		
Llanfoist Fawr	919	2,479	Llanfoist	261	724	238	640		
			Llanellen	138	356	109	271	1	1
			Llanwenarth Citra	86	249	69	210		
			Llanwenarth Ultra	450	1,185	408	1,064	New mains & Res. constructed.	
			Pwlldu	2	8	2	8		
Grosmont Fawr	246	705	Grosmont	150	422	88	247)	New main proposed.	
			Llangua	23	68	-	-)		
			Llanvetherine	37	109	42	126		
			Llangattock Lingoed	36	106	30	90		
TOTALS	3,418	10,815		3,504	11,030	2,918	9,263		

* Includes Pen-y-val Hospital